

Hello, Family!

Welcome to kindergarten! Your child is probably full of questions about what's in store for the year ahead. Over the next month, our class will answer a lot of those questions as we work together to discover what kindergarten is all about.

We will read books about school and find out about schools around the world. Children will write about their favorite things and create a "Kindergarten Guide" packed with information to share with children heading to kindergarten next year.

Bring It Home

Here are some ideas for practicing the skills we are learning at school.

<p style="text-align: center;">GIVE ME SOME DIRECTION!</p> <p>Build listening skills by giving directions and helping your child follow through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Start with one-step directions and gradually work up to two- and three-step directions. • Use words like <i>first</i>, <i>then</i>, and <i>next</i> to help children remember directions. For example: <i>First, brush your teeth. Then put on your shoes.</i> 	<p style="text-align: center;">BIG IDEA WORDS</p> <p>Reinforce these important topic words when you are reading or talking with your child:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">discover dream partners</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">WORD PLAY</p> <p>Play with letters and sounds to help develop skills that are important for reading:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sing the ABCs and songs that rhyme. • Play "I Spy" to find alphabet letters around home or when you are out and about. • Read alphabet books and recite nursery rhymes. Ask your child to name the letters or tell you words that rhyme. 	<p style="text-align: center;">WORDS TO KNOW</p> <p>Practice reading and spelling these words that children will see a lot in books they read:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">a I see the</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">LET'S READ TOGETHER</p> <p>Make a special time and place to read with your child every day. While you read, ask:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>What's happening in the picture?</i> • <i>Who is the story about? Where does it happen?</i> • <i>What is the book about? What did you learn?</i> • <i>Can the picture help you with the word ____?</i> 	<p style="text-align: center;">OPINION WRITING</p> <p>Support your child to write about how he or she thinks or feels about something and why:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ask your child to share opinions throughout the day. For example: <i>Would you rather have ____ or ____ for dinner? Tell me why.</i> • Share opinions with your child using "I think" and "In my opinion." Make sure to give reasons why!